SECTION 1 - PREREQUISITES

§201.4(c)(6):	*The plan **must** be formally adopted by the State prior to submittal [FEMA] for final review and approval*

As noted in the FEMA guidelines, "formal adoption of the state plan will vary according to state protocols. Generally, states should obtain the signature of the state emergency management director as approval of the plan." The Maine Hazard Mitigation Plan has been adopted accordingly, as signified by the signature of the Director of Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

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Arthur W. Cleaves Date
Director, Maine Emergency Management Agency

§201.4(c)(7):	*The plan **must** include assurances that the State [of Maine] will comply with all applicable Federal statues and regulation in effect with respect to the period for which it receives grant funding, in compliance with 44 CFR 13.11(c). The State will amend its plan when ever necessary to reflect changes in State of Federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11(d).*

This plan meets requirements for a Standard State Plan under Interim Final rule 44 CFR 201.4, published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on February 26, 2002. Meeting the requirements of the regulations noted above keeps the State of Maine qualified to obtain all disaster assistance including hazard mitigation grants available through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P. L. 93-288 as amended.

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INTRODUCTION

Background: Maine's geography and climate exert great influence on the occurrence and severity of the State's natural hazards. Although the State is usually able to handle these hazards, overwhelming events, such as the April 1987 Flood, have required federal assistance. *The Maine Hazard Mitigation Plan* was originally prepared to refine mitigation efforts and eligibility for federal disaster relief in 1987. The plan has subsequently been updated in 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. In accordance with new Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) guidelines, this 2004 version reflects the most recent research, analysis and mitigation planning.

Authority: *The 2004 Maine Hazard Mitigation Plan* (the Plan) has been adopted to satisfy the requirements outlined in Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended) for federal disaster assistance and enacted under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (P.L. 106-390.)

Purpose: The purpose of the Maine Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide guidance for a hazard resistant state that vigilantly assesses, plans for and mitigates any natural disaster.

Scope: At this time, the Plan only addresses the State's *natural* hazards. Events that tend to be seasonal, such as thunderstorms, lightning and tornados will all be found under "Summer Storms" though it is possible for them to occur at other times of year. Accordingly, blizzards, ice storms, nor'easters and snow storms are grouped under "Winter Storms" even though nor'easters can occur in other seasons. A notable exception to this convention is the hurricane hazard. Based on its potential for catastrophic damages, it is covered separately in the "Hurricane" section. Hazards that occur rarely and/or have had fairly small economic impacts are covered under broader headings.

Hazards such as drought, fire and blight/infestation are generally mitigated by other State agencies. To coordinate with their efforts, material for these sections of the Plan was drawn largely from meetings, notes and records of the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and the Fire Marshall's Office.

Number One Hazard: The primary mitigation efforts of this Plan, however, concentrate on flooding, the State's number one hazard. A brief climate description at the beginning of the Risk Assessment section gives an overview of why flooding is a possibility during any season of any year. The causes are many and varied: spring run off, ice jams, hurricanes, heavy rains, a dam breach, or some combination of factors. As profiled in the "Flood of '87," the results will be expensive, usually in terms of damaged roads, bridges and buildings, and could have far reaching consequences for businesses, municipalities and individuals.

Demographic and Resource Profiles

According to 2000 Census information, Maine has the third largest population in the six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.) However, its average population density of only 41.3 people per square mile is *half* that of the national average. While two thirds of the population is clustered in the southern-most counties of the state, the other third is scattered throughout the northern and western counties. Maine's population is also older than the national average, a trend that is likely to continue as young Mainers continue to leave the state in search of higher incomes.

Measure:	2000 Maine	2000 USA
Population		
Total Population	1,274,923	281.421,906
% White	96.9	62.6
% Black	0.5	12.3
% American Indian	0.6	0.9
% Asia	0.7	3.6
% Hispanic Origin	0.7	12.5
Households		
Total Households	518,200	105,480,101
Household Units	651,901	115,904,641
Average Household Size	2.39	2.6
Income		
Median Household Income ($)	**37,240**	**41,994**
Persons below poverty, %1997	10.9	12.4
Children below poverty, %1997	13.0	16.1
Sex and Age		
Median Age, Total Population	38.6	35.3
% Female	51.3	50.9
% Male	48.7	49.1
% Under 5 Years	5.5	6.8
% 18 Years and over	76.4	74.3
% 65 Years and over	14.4	12.4
Population Density (sq. mi.)	**41.3**	**79.6**

Source: 2000 Census website

Of the six New England states, Maine has the largest land area, covering 35,387 square miles, almost the combined area (36,022 square miles) of the other five states. Divided into 16 counties, this area has a multitude of natural resources: mountains and state parks, 5,779 lakes and ponds, 5 major rivers and 17 million areas of forest. The Atlantic Ocean forms the state's eastern boundary which is 5,299 miles of coastline under tidal influence. All these natural resources provide a unique quality of life for its residents and many sports and scenic opportunities for tourists.

However, Maine's location in the northeastern most corner of the United States also means that connecting Maine's population (or tourists) to goods and services requires an extensive network of highways and bridges. This infrastructure must withstand the movement of heavy equipment, such as lumber trucks, and the wide extremes of a variable climate. Unlike the highways in the south and southwestern states, Maine highways must be sanded, salted and plowed during the winter months, an additional expense in equipment and staffing. Not surprisingly, the operating costs of maintaining the state's highway infrastructure are a very significant budget item.

While Maine has the largest land area to manage in the New England region, it also has the lowest median household income. The comparison table below shows that Maine incomes lag seriously behind the more affluent states of Connecticut and Massachusetts. Since those states are so close geographically, it is small wonder that younger Mainers leave the state, often after graduation, to seek higher paying careers in neighboring cities. Like the rest of the country, Maine is hardly immune to the effects of outsourcing and the loss of manufacturing businesses, and is also in a painful transition to a new economy, still being defined.

These factors of income and population density, combined with geographic distances, are major challenges to the state's planning processes for its resources. A very small (and aging)

population, with a low national average income, must pay for miles of infrastructure, a major budgetary consideration both at the local and state level. Because it is occurring as incomes are further squeezed by rising taxes, energy and health care costs, there is a critical need for strategic planning and the development of creative solutions.

State	Population (ranking in region)	Land Area (ranking in region)	Median Household Income (ranking)
Maine	**1,274,923 (3)**	**35,387 (1)**	**$37,240 (6)**
Connecticut	3,405,565 (2)	5,018 (5)	$53,935 (1)
Massachusetts	6,349,097 (1)	10,555 (2)	$50,502 (2)
New Hampshire	1,235,786 (4)	9,304 (4)	$49,467 (3)
Rhode Island	1,048,319 (5)	1,545 (6)	$42,090 (4)
Vermont	608,827 (6)	9,600 (3)	$40,856 (5)

Source: 2000 Census website